

STUDIES ABOUT THE DEGRADED STAND IN COVURLUI PLATEAU

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ABSTRACT

Highly divided surfaces, the human pressure, sometimes the unreliable administration of the forests from the Covurlui Plateau led to the increase of the surfaces occupied with stands in which the actual productivity is lower than the potential productivity. This is happening in a zone that already has already not enough forest. Sooner or later it will be necessary to act decisively in order to combat the degradation of the stands.

This is why the aim of this work is to analyze, using comprehensive criteria, the problem of the scale of the degradation of the stands and, on the other hand, to get some instruments that help us to arrange the stands considering the necessity and the rush of intervention.

The work is localized in the state forest of two forest ranges: Galati and Grivita.

The method we applied was to identify the degraded stands (using the managerial plan) and to group them by the forest and site type. Then, aiming at best representation of each type of the natural forest, we made a net of plots (39 plots), randomized. Inside the plots we aimed describing the forest using the total inventory for determining the medium diameter, the medium high, the volume for the surface unit the consistence and productivity. We made soil analysis and also we aimed describing the actual condition of the whole biological system.

Even if there was no possibility to arrange witness plots in stands with the characteristics of the natural forest, but only in a few cases, we managed to evaluate the grade of the degradation of the forest comparing to the characteris-

tics of the natural forest. In case of the artificial stands we used some other levels of evaluation.

The degree of the degradation was estimated for every natural forest type reaching in the end a hierarchy of the degraded stands that can be followed for establishing the priorities of the ecological reconstruction activities.

Here are some of the conclusions:

- In extreme site conditions, under the rising pressure from the human community, natural stands lose their capacity to rebuild naturally the ecological balance, so, in spite of all the efforts that have been made, the degradation continues. Management systems in the past, not enough scientific based, enlarged the difference between the actual stands and the ecological balanced natural forests.

- Last decade actions in order to remake or substitute the degraded forest had no spectacular results because of: the difficulty of making high quality work in poor climatic conditions; ignoring the site conditions that have been described many years ago, not following the system of taking care of the young stands. That's why, nowadays there is a tendency of degradation between the stands that made the object of the ecological reconstruction in the last four decades.

- The artificial acacia stands are degrading over the coppice cycles of production with the degradation, in the same time, of the soil fertility. Under those circumstances, to come back to the natural forest is an aim that can be considered far away.

- Regarding the forest that has the composition of the natural forests we can say that they are all sprout regenerated and the regeneration capacity is almost missing.

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